Sunday, February 9, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Turkey balks at possibility of U.S. commanding its troops in Iraq

BY ESRA AYGIN

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkey's military is objecting to a U.S. proposal to put Turkish troops who enter northern Iraq under U.S. command if there is a war in Iraq, a news report said Sunday.

Turkey is looking to move thousands of troops into northern Iraq during a possible U.S.-led war in Baghdad — a prospect that worries Iraqi Kurdish groups that rule the autonomous area.

Last week, U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said any Turkish troop presence in northern Iraq should be under U.S. command.

The speaker of Turkey's parliament, Bulent Arinc, immediately said that the proposal was "most likely unacceptable." "Commander Crisis," the daily Milliyet headlined Sunday.

Turkish generals "strongly" object to the proposal, the newspaper said.

It quoted the country's military leaders as saying that they could not agree to putting Turkish soldiers under foreign command.

Washington's suggestion to put Turkish troops under U.S. command aims at persuading Iraqi Kurds to cooperate in a possible war in Iraq.

Iraqi Kurds are worried that Turkey may use the war to try and realize historical ambitions to control the oil-producing areas of northern Iraq. Kurdish officials have said they would agree to only a small Turkish presence that would safeguard humanitarian efforts.

Turkey has said that its troops would enter northern Iraq to prevent a refugee

influx from the area. Turkish officials also say that Kurdish rebels in Turkey took advantage of a mass exodus into the country following the 1991 Gulf War and infiltrated into Turkey, leading to a dramatic upsurge in guerrilla fighting.

Many believe, however, that Turkey would cross into Iraq to prevent the possible creation of a Kurdish state. Some even speculate that Turkey could use the buildup to wipe out Turkish Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq.

Turks fear that the creation of a Kurdish state in Iraq would boost Kurdish aspirations in southeastern Turkey where the Kurdistan Workers Party or PKK fought a 15-year war for autonomy that left 37,000 dead.

Turkey is expected to allow the United States to deploy tens of thousands of soldiers in the country if there is an Iraq war.

At Landstuhl hospital, it's never simply business as usual



SEAN E. COBB/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Staff Sgt. Owen Barr, a medical technician at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, checks the vital signs of Petty Officer 3rd Class Udorn Chanthalangsy while Army 2nd Lt. Lottie Toney, a surgical ward nurse, watches. The medical center sees patients from Operation Enduring Freedom.

BY SEAN E. COBB

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Caring for casualties of war never becomes routine, but after a year and a half, people at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center are getting plenty of practice.

As of Thursday, the medical center had treated 1,396 patients from Operation Enduring Freedom in the Persian Gulf, said Army Col. David A. Rubenstein, the medical center's commander.

The majority of the patients are servicemembers, but they also include employees of other government agencies, American civilians working in the gulf region and even a few combatants from nations allied with the United States, medical center officials said.

About 8 percent of the pa-

tients are combat casualties, so there have been a little more than 100 combat wounded, Rubenstein said.

The center — generally identified as "a military hospital in Germany" in news reports — expects the number of patients to exceed the 1,400 mark with a medical evacuation flight due in Friday, Rubenstein added.

Although the medical center staff stays constantly busy treating Enduring Freedom patients on top of its regular workload, it is trained and prepared to handle it, said Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Berthold, a nurse in the surgical ward

The medical staff at the center never considers receiving patients from the war on terrorism to be business as usual, Rubenstein said.

See LANDSTUHL on Page 2

Landstuhl

Continued from Page 1

"Many of our [medical evacuation] planes come in during the wee hours of the morning and there is always a full staff here to care for the patients and take care of their immediate needs," he said.

Taking good care of the patients is simply the staff's way of honoring the patients for doing their part defending American interests around the world, said Airman 1st Class Joseph Morgan, a surgical ward medical technician.

"I'm glad we have someone down there [in the gulf] taking care of us, so we do the best we can to take care of them," he said.

The entire medical center remains involved in treating the patients' ailments, from minor to major, said Dr. (Mai.) Keith Preston, a neurosurgeon at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

"People come through here every week," he said. "From feet, backs and brains - we fix them all."

The psychological aspects of treating patients injured in war can hit hard sometimes, said Air Force 2nd Lt. Sean Mulvey, a surgical ward nurse.

One day a servicemember came to the ward with shrapnel wounds all over his body. Mulvey said. "I thought 'Wow, he's been in 16 years, just like myself, and I have never gone through what he's gone through.'

Sometimes the servicemembers have injuries that will affect them throughout their lives, such as those who lose arms and legs. "I wonder how they will deal with it,' Mulvey said.

Despite the challenges, servicemembers exposed to lifethreatening injuries should know their medical needs are being cared for by a firstclass medical center, Rubenstein said.

"The staff continues to be absolutely superb," he said. "They demonstrate their competence every day."

E-mail Sean E. Cobb at: cobbs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

News tracker: What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Shooting of civilians in Kuwait: A Ku-Shooting of civilians in Kuwait: A Ku-waiti civil servant who previously ad-mitted killing one U.S. computer con-tractor and injuring another claimed Saturday that authorities forced him to confess, his lawyer said. Sami al-Mutairi, 25, denied the Jan. 21 shooting of the two computer contrac-tors near a U.S. military camp in Ku-wait, counsel Mohammed al-Mutairi said.

Badi al-Aimi, a Kuwaiti detained over allegations he supplied al-Mutairi with the AK-47 assault rifle used in the attack, also claimed his confession was made under duress.

No trial dates have been set for the

Belgium blocks preparations: Belgium will continue blocking NATO efforts to plan for Turkey's defense against po-tential attacks from Iraq, Belgian For-eign Minister Louis Michel said Sun-

Michel urged the United States to give U.N. inspectors more time and re-

give U.N. inspectors more time and resources to search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and backed a reported French-German plan to send U.N. peacekeepers there.
Turkey is the only NATO nation that borders Iraq and may be a springboard for U.S. troops opening up a northern front in any attack, prompting fears it could be the target for retaliatory strikes. France, Belgium and Germany are the only three of NATO's 19 members who don't back preparations to defend the country.

bers who don't back preparations to defend the country.

Peacekeepers proposal: A Franco-German proposal to deploy U.N. soldiers to disarm Iraq was harshly criticized Sunday by U.S. officials as an ineffective ploy to delay military action opposed by both Berlin and Paris.

According to a report in Der Spiegel, the plan would call for the deployment of thousands of U.N. peacekeepers, reconnaissance flights and a tripling of the number of weapons inspectors, effectively sidelining Saddam Hussein, the German magazine said. U.S. officials, however, said the plan was problematic because it required Iraqi cooperation and assumed U.N. peacekeeperation and assumed U.N. peacekeeperatio eration and assumed U.N. peacekeep-ers could be effective in a "difficult en-vironment."

Moussaoui decision: The Bush administration soon must decide whether it wants to move the case of Sept. 11 conspiracy suspect Zacarias Moussaoui to a military tribunal, where it would be easier to keep national security information control. mation secret.

The case has reached a crucial pretri-al stage, because U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema is making decisions on sensitive testimony that the govern-ment says could affect national securi-

With jury selection set for May 27 and a trial date of June 30, unresolved questions of national security could cause more delays in the drawn-out proceedings.

World

Some South Koreans rally around U.S.: South Koreans on Sunday burned a picture of North Korean leader Kim Jong II, waved American flags and prayed for an end to North Korea's nuclear ambi-

tions.

About 3,000 people, mostly Christians, attended the pro-U.S. rally in South Korea's second-largest city, Pusan. They voiced support for the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea and a strong alliance with Washington, as the crisis over the communist North's nuclear programs deepens.

"North Korea must stop nuclear development," said a statement by the National Council of Churches in Korea, which organized the rally.

which organized the rally. Chechen prime minister resigns: Fighting between Russian troops and Chechen rebels persisted Saturday — with at least six Russians killed — while the re-gion's prime minister resigned in a dis-pute with the leader of the Moscowbacked administration.

There were 15 rebel attacks on Russian positions in 24 hours, an official in the Russian-backed administration

said.

Mikhail Babich resigned after criticizing administration chief Akhmad Kadyrov last month when he tried to replace the region's finance minister, saying he overstepped his authority by failing to consult Babich on the matter. The former finance minister stepped down but was not replaced, and Kadyrov said the dispute has hut Chech. rov said the dispute has hurt Chech-

rov said the dispute has nutr Chech-nya's economy. Euro for Britain?: Treasury chief Gor-don Brown said Sunday that he has not ruled out recommending that Britain join the single European currency, adding that his department was on track to complete its analysis of the issue by

June.

Brown dismissed as untrue a report in The Sunday Times newspaper that he had already decided to recommend against joining the currency. "The assessment has actually not started," he told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Colombian club bombing: Vice President Francisco Santos on Saturday.

dent Francisco Santos on Saturday blamed rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia for planting a car bomb at an exclusive Bogota so cial club that killed at least 31

ing six children — and injured 157.
Santos said that he "had no doubt" that Colombia's largest rebel group, also known as the FARC, was responsible for the black Eddouble that the ble for the blast Friday night that gut-ted the 11-story El Nogal Club packed

with weekend revelers.

"Before, what the narcoterrorists used, now [the rebels] use without any concerns of conscience," he said.

The bombing was the worst terrorist

attack in Colombia since Pablo Esco-bar's Medellin drug cartel orchestrat-ed a wave of bombings and assassinations in the 1980s and early 1990s in Co-lombia's cities to avoid his extradition to the United States.

States

Role in sex-abuse scandals: The former top deputy to Cardinal Bernard Law in Boston, Bishop William F. Murphy, was involved in managing nearly one-third of that city's priest sex abuse cases, according to a published report. Murphy, who now heads the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island, oversaw the reassignment of priests accused of sexual abuse, took care of their legal bills, and helped find them jobs and housing, Newsday reported Sunday. unday. Murphy, who is to testify Tuesday be

fore a Massachusetts grand jury inves-tigating whether he and other church officials can be prosecuted for allegedly protecting abusive priests, declined to comment.

Mom denies selling babies: The mother of twins who were twice adopted over the Internet said she never re-ceived any money for giving up he-girls and is a victim of negative media

coverage.
Tranda Wecker, 30, told the St. Louis
Post-Dispatch in a story published Saturday that she never sold her babies
over the Internet. A broker who arranged the adoption got the money,

Wecker became a tabloid sensation,

Wecker became a tabloid sensation, becoming widely perceived as the mother of the "Internet twins," when a custody battle ensued by the two couples who paid to adopt the children.

Kerry decries environment moves:
Sen. John Kerry accused the Bush administration of putting special interests ahead of the environment and called for a renewed national commitment to clean air, water and land.

"Corporate polluters have found that

in the Bush administration the doors of government are wide open," Kerry, D-Mass., said in remarks prepared for delivery Sunday night. "Almost as soon as this administration took office they as this administration took office they invited in the chief lobbyists to rewrite the very laws that were intended to protect our land, our water, and our air. And not surprisingly, the result was the biggest retreat on environmen-

Kernedy Library in Boston. Several of President Bush's environmental record and plan to make it an issue in the cam-

paign.

Branch Davidian appeal: The 5th U.S.
Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans will hear oral arguments on an
appeal filed by surviving Branch Davidians and their families, who lost a \$675
million wrongful-death lawsuit against
the federal government more than two

rederal government more than two years ago.

After a monthlong trial that ended in July 2000, an advisory jury that heard the lawsuit concluded the government was not responsible for the deaths of about 80 men, women and children when the Davidians' Mount Carmel complex near Waco, Texas, burned to the ground April 19, 1993, after an armored federal assault.

Based on the jury's recommendation.

the ground April 19, 1993, after an armored federal assault.
Based on the jury's recommendation, U.S. District Judge Walter Smith ruled against the Davidians.
Attorneys for the Branch Davidians said Smith's bias against the group and its leader, David Koresh, made a fair trial impossible.
The appeal seeks a new trial, plaintiffs' attorney James Juranek said.
Artificial heart: Tom Christerson, the longest-living recipient of a fully self-contained artificial heart, spent his final hours among family and friends before dying in his sleep.
Christerson died Friday afternoon at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Ky., where he received the plastic-and-titanium device 512 days ago. He was 71.
Abiomed Inc. of Danvers, Mass., the company that manufactures the Abio-Cor heart, said the cause of death was

Cor heart, said the cause of death was the "wearout of an internal membrane" of the device.

Christerson, a retired tire dealer, became the world's second recipient of the AbioCor device in a surgery Sept.

At the time, Christerson was given little chance of surviving more than a month with his own failing heart.

Military

Guardsman, ex-wife accused: Former National Guard intelligence officer Rafael Davila admits he spent years bringing home secret and top-secret documents, stacking them in his basement and finally in a rented storage locker. He told the FBI he just wanted to read them.

Now in a case with ties to the shad

to read them.

Now in a case with ties to the shadowy world of white supremacists and anti-government militias, prosecutors are accusing Davila and his ex-wife, Deborah, of espionage. Investigators are still trying to track down hundreds of files apparently containing information about nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

tion about nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

A federal indictment charges the Davilas with unauthorized possession of sensitive documents during the first eight months of 1999. Deborah Davila is also charged with trying to deliver the documents to an unidentified person in August of that year.

A judge ordered the two held without bail.

A judge ordered the two field without bail.

The Davilas, whose marriage crumbled in 1999 after less than a year, have pleaded innocent. Prosecutors said there is no evidence that foreign government are involved in the conernments are involved in the case.

From wire reports

Blix says he sees softer stance in Iraq

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix said Sunday that he saw a beginning of Iraqi understanding that it must seriously observe U.N. demands for disarmament and that he believed further U.N. inspections were preferable to a quick U.S.-led military strike.

"I perceive a beginning," Blix said after two days of talks in Baghdad. "Breakthrough is a strong word for what we are seeing."

But he added: "I would much rather see inspections than some other solution," referring to Washington's threats to launch a military strike.

But Blix said he and U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei did not win immediate agreement on using American U-2 surveillance planes to assist with the inspections.

There was no immediate U.S. response to Blix's comments, but President Bush reiterated that it was time for action against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Saddam "wants the world to think that hide-and-seek is a game that we should play. And it's over," Bush told congressional Republicans at a policy conference. "It's a moment of truth for the United Nations. The United Nations gets to decide shortly whether or not it is going to be relevant in terms of keeping the peace, whether or not its words mean anything."

Blix said he had received assurances that Iraq would expand a commission to search for weapons and weapons programs and "relevant documents nationwide," and that he had hopes that Iraq was taking the disarmament issue seriously.

During the two days of meetings, the Iraqis submitted a number of documents that are still being evaluated. Blix said they related to outstanding issues of anthrax, VX nerve gas and Iraqi missile development.

ElBaradei said Iraq's coop-

eration must be "simultaneous in all areas" of the inspection process.

"We made it clear to Iraq they need to move on the whole file," meaning all types of weapons of mass destruction, he said.

On the issue of U-2 flights, Blix said he expected the Iraqis to respond by Friday. The Iraqis have refused to accept U-2 flights unless the United States and Britain suspend air patrols in the no-fly zones while the spy plane is aloft.

Blix and ElBaradei are to make their next report to the U.N. Security Council on Friday. Their report is expected to be pivotal in determining whether the United States launches military action to disarm Iraq.

Also on Sunday, U.N. inspectors found another empty chemical rocket warhead at an ammunition depot north of Baghdad. Inspectors have found nearly 20 such warheads during inspections over recent weeks although none have been loaded with chemical agents.

Iragi official in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran — Iraq's foreign minister arrived Sunday for talks with Iranian officials in a surprise diplomatic move as U.N. weapons inspectors pressed Iraq for key concessions to avoid war.

There was no notice of the visit by Naji Sabri to Iran, which is a leading opponent of Saddam Hussein's government but also rejects any military intervention without U.N. approval.

Taliban spy arrested?

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
— Authorities on Sunday arrested an alleged Taliban informer in southern Afghanistan as a result of their investigation into a shooting attack
that killed six Afghan soldiers, officials said.
The suspected Taliban spy,

The suspected Taliban spy, who was not identified, was arrested near Choto, said intelligence official Dad Mohammed by telephone.

On Friday, men in several vehicles attacked a group of soldiers as they were praying near Choto, killing five and abducting two others.

Kuwait gains support

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait welcomed Sunday a decision by fellow Gulf states to send troops from their combined military force to defend it against any Iraqi threats.

Defense and foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman agreed Saturday to deploy the forces, known as the Peninsula Shield, to Kuwait.

Female cops sought

KABUL, Afghanistan — Authorities in Afghanistan are stepping up a drive to recruit more women to the national police academy in the capital, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

About 1,450 students — 29 of them women — are currently being trained at the academy, said U.N. mission spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva.

Women have slowly begun returning to work since the hard-line Taliban regime was overthrown in a U.S.-led war in late 2001.

Report: Saudis want to end U.S. military presence

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia's leaders have made far-reaching decisions to prepare for an era of military disengagement from the United States, to enact what Saudi officials call the first significant democratic reforms at home, and to rein in the conservative clergy that has shared power in the kingdom.

Senior members of the royal family say the decisions, reached in the last month, are a result of a continuing debate over Saudi Arabia's future and have not yet been publicly announced. But these princes say Crown Prince Abdullah will ask President Bush to withdraw all American armed

forces from the kingdom as soon as the campaign to disarm Iraq has concluded.

Pentagon officials asked about the Saudi decisions said they had not heard of any plan so specific as a complete American withdrawal. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in which 15 of the 19 hijackers involved were Saudis, members of both parties in Congress have urged broad reform in the conservative kingdom.

The presence of foreign—especially American—forces since the Persian Gulf War of 1991 has been a contentious issue in Saudi Arabia and has spurred the terrorism of Osama bin Laden, the now disowned scion of one of the king-

dom's wealthiest families, and his followers in al-Qaida.

Saudi officials said the departure of American soldiers would set the stage for an announcement that Saudis — but probably not women, at least initially — would begin electing representatives to provincial assemblies and then to a national assembly, Saudi officials said. The goal would be the gradual expansion, over six years, of democratic writ until a fully democratic national assembly emerged, a senior official said.

Until Abdullah actually issues the decrees, it remains to be seen whether he will be the first son of Saudi Arabia's modern unifier, King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, to undertake significant political change.

Troop news and diversions from the front

For the second week in a row, a servicemember died as a result of a car accident in the Middle East. Four soldiers were hurt and one died Thursday near Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, when they were involved in a vehicle accident, according a military spokesman from Camp Doha. The Department of Defense identified Army National Guard soldier Spc. Brian M. Clemens, 19, of Indiana as the soldier who was killed when the vehicle rolled over The incident is under inpartial. the vehicle rolled over. The incident is under investigation.

A soldier was killed and three others injured the pre-

vious week in a vehicle accident in Qatar.

Carrier movement

Department of Defense officials announced last week they will send two more aircraft carriers to the Persian Gulf. The USS Kitty Hawk, based in Yokosuka, Japan, and USS Nimitz, based in San Diego, are set to join the flotilla of ships operating in or steaming for

join the flotilla of ships operating in or steaming for the Persian Gulf.

That will bring the number of aircraft carriers to six, the same number deployed for the Gulf War.

Currently, the USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Constellation are operating in the North Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf. The USS Harry Truman and USS Theodore Roosevelt are also on their way by way of the Mediterranean. Mediterranean.

Off-limit anger

As the buildup of American and other troops reach-As the building of Almedia and other troops reachines a peak, more of Kuwait's outlying desert territories are being closed to all except military vehicles, leaving some Kuwaiti residents irate over the matter. Local news reports are filled with complaints from Kuwait's leisure class, whose favorite winter pastime

is camping in the desolate, flat deserts that circle Ku-

By Feb. 15, Kuwait's Ministry of Interior has said,

more than one-half of the country, which is roughly the size of New Jersey, will be off-limits because of the building military force.

Nearing Gulf

Two thousand Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based from Camp Pendleton, Calif., are nearing the Persian Gulf on three ships with the Tara-

nearing the Persian duri on three ships with the rai a-wa Amphibious Ready Group.

The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based from Camp Lejeune, N.C., has been deployed for more than five months. Routine deployments last for six months, but many Marines recently taking liberty in Bahrain said they expect their deployment to last

Bahrain said they expect their deployment to last longer than half a year.

More than 35,000 Marines are now operating on ships and at locations ashore in the Central Command area. First Marine Expeditionary Force has 15,000 Marines in Kuwait. Amphibious Task Force East is carrying 7,200 Marines aboard ships and another 5,000 Marines are on ships assigned to Amphibious Task Force West

ous Task Force West.

Marines with Task Force Horn of Africa are also operating from USS Mount Whitney in Djibouti, trying to disrupt and root out terrorism.

Bahrain's role

While most sailors and Marines in Bahrain expect war to break out within weeks, many feel the action will take place from Kuwait, not Bahrain.

The small Arab country is primarily a command and logistics hub, where commanders redirect forces and

ships refuel and restock supplies.
Troops routinely take liberty in Bahrain, flocking to local dance clubs, bars and pubs.
The USS Nassau recently left Manama's port, and USS Constellation pulled in Thursday.

One bumpy ride

As thousands of troops continue to pour into the Gulf region, some are looking for ways to keep busy. Servicemembers at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait are lining up for camel rides, but the balky animals are doing their best to take revenge.

One Marine lost his sunglasses and boonie capafter a particularly ill-tempered camel took offense to being dressed up like a devil dog. The camel knocked the glasses and cap off its own head, then chewed them to shreds.

Local entrepreneurs have introduced the camel rides at a small dirt lot near Arifjan's central water tower.

tower.

Two of the double-humped beasts, fitted with color-ful saddles and blankets, shuttle curious soldiers back and forth on a 30-foot path and have become a popular photo attraction.

Mail troubles

Mailing those pictures home, however, could become a problem.
Soldiers and Marines in Kuwait say the military mail system is having trouble keeping up with their movements. Some Marines at forward camps have bundles of letters that they've written but haven't been able to mail yet.
Even at bases in the rear, such as Camp Arifjan, soldiers say their mail is anywhere from two weeks to a month delayed.
Military officials say that the military postal detachment at Arifjan is being beefed up, a move they say will help the flow and volume of mail — both incoming and outgoing — increase.

Joe Giordono is reporting from Kuwait City and can be reached at: giordonoj@pstripes.osd.mil Mark Oliva is reporting from Bahrain and can be reached at: olivam@pstripes.osd.mil

Iraqis retain strong affection for things American

BY MARJORIE MILLER

Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD, Irag — Dental student Ahmed Ghassan, a fan of Elvis Presley and Tom Hanks, explains in colloquial American English that he may have to fight for his life against U.S. troops.

Iraqi government press officer Kadhim Taie studied at the American University in Washington and would like to send his children there one day — after a war with the United States.

Retired engineer Haitham Kassim says the U.S. government is intent on waging war to control the world oil market and distract attention from economic problems at home. He makes his point with a Hollywood film about a contrived conflict: "Did you ever see 'Wag the Dog'?" he asks enthusiastically.

After 12 years U.S.-backed economic sanctions, and on the brink of another war, ordinary Iraqis express rage at the Bush administration but retain a strong affection for things American.

This distinction between

the U.S. government and its people or products is common throughout the Arab world. However, it is all the more remarkable among Iraqis, who draw a direct line between their daily hardships and U.S. policy.

Iraq has seen relatively few American visitors since the 1991 Persian Gulf War and, consequently, is one of the few places where Americans are not quickly identified by their open faces and distinctive accents. Ordinary Iraqis often do not realize they are speaking to one until halfway through a conversation.

"It makes me angry and sometimes afraid, but if American tanks come, we must save ourselves," said English-language student Balsam Abbas, 26.

"Iraq is very rich, and they want everything. They must do it. No, no, not 'must,' " she correcting said, herself. "They do it."

Then, when she learned she was speaking with an American, her dimpled face broke into a wide smile.

"Welcome, welcome," she

An American visiting Baghdad today steps into a kind of forbidden city, the seat of power of President Saddam Hussein, whom the Bush administration has placed alongside Hitler and Osama bin Laden as one of the greatest villains of modern times. Because of visa restrictions and U.N. economic sanctions, it is difficult to get into Iraq; security precautions make it almost as difficult to board a plane out.

In any case, Iraqis believe that their nation and the United States are going to battle not over banned weapons or alleged links to the al-Qaida terrorist network but over American avarice. To many here, the United States is but the latest in a long line of conguerors that include Britain and the Ottoman Turks, who ruled the Middle East for cen-

"If Iraq had weapons [of mass destruction] like they are pretending, then America wouldn't attack," reasoned Adnan Hassan, 32, the owner of a small transport business. "America wants to bomb Iraq not because of arms, but for oil.'

Fighting Abu Sayyaf?

MANILA, Philippines Philippine and U.S security officials denied Saturday that American troops might be allowed to fight alongside Philippine soldiers against the militant Abu Sayyaf group.

The U.S.-based Congress-Daily news service reported that President Bush is on the verge of authorizing combat by some of the American Green Berets arriving in the Philippines to train local forces to fight the Muslim extremist group.

That would be a major escalation of the U.S. involvement in the former American colony, where six months of U.S. counterterrorism exercises last year raised the ire of leftist protesters despite a ban on combat by the Americans.

"They wouldn't be allowed to fight or join combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo" province, said southern Philippine military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero. "The U.S. soldiers are here to train the Filipino troops."

U.S. military spokesman Capt. Steve Wollman also said American soldiers would not combat ioin operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Official: Osprey tests 'going well'

BY RICHARD WHITTLE

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — The V-22 Osprey's flight tests are "going well," Defense Undersecretary Pete Aldridge said Friday, adding that he will visit the program's Maryland office this week to assess its progress in detail.

"I'm always skeptical until I'm proven otherwise," said the Pentagon procurement chief, who previously had expressed doubts that the tiltrotor troop transport would be suitable for combat missions.

But without declaring any change of heart, Aldridge allowed that the flight test program for the controversial Marine Corps aircraft "is laid out very well" and that he had "not heard any real problems yet."

Pentagon budgets in future years would increase funding for V-22 procurement "under the assumption that the flight test program is successful," he added.

The fiscal 2004 budget President Bush submitted to Congress last week requested \$1.64 billion for 11 Ospreys.

A decision on whether to stick with that plan or cut funding probably will be made this summer or next fall, he said.

Failure of flight tests could mean V-22 is canceled, Rumsfeld says

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Even though President Bush is calling for additional purchases of the V-22 Osprey in his latest defense budget, the president's defense chief says the controversial tilt-rotor aircraft will be canceled if it flunks flight tests now underway at two military bases.

Responding to questions about the V-22's future during a congressional budget hearing, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the aircraft's fate rests heavily on the outcome of the tests.

"If we start seeing some problems occur, we may have to re-address where we go," he added.

Built by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. of Fort Worth in partnership with Boeing Co., the V-22 uses two huge wingtip rotors to take off like a helicopter, then tilts them forward to fly like an airplane.

That gives it greater speed and range than a normal heli-

"In the event it proves not to be a successful test, why it obviously would be terminated," Rumsfeld told members of the House Armed Services Committee last week. "To the extent it proves successful, everyone is persuaded that it brings value, and we'd intend to go forward."

Rumsfeld's remarks, which echoed earlier statements from other high-ranking Pentagon officials, indicated that the Bell-Boeing aircraft still has to prove itself before winning full acceptance by the Defense Department.

copter.

The Marines are convinced the Osprey's unusual capability will revolutionize the way they fight. But after two crashes in 2000 that left 23 Marines dead, critics urged the Pentagon to cancel the Osprey.

The Pentagon instead ordered a redesign of the aircraft and a new, rigorous round of flight tests that began last May.

S. Korea fears U.S. emotional over North

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's ruling party said Saturday it feared Washington might be getting emotional in its handling of a nuclear standoff with North Korea, a day after President Bush left open the possibility of a military strike.

"North Korea's recent moves cannot be praised, but we cannot help expressing concern as to whether emotions have interfered with U.S. efforts to resolve the North's nuclear problem," Chang Chun-hyong, a deputy spokesman of the South's ruling Millennium Democratic Party, said in a statement.

Bush said Friday that "all options are on the table."

Bush and his aides usually take care to state that the United States has no intention of attacking North Korea. In his comments Friday, Bush did not repeat that message.

On Saturday, North Korea accused Bush of planning to invade the impoverished state and warning that a conflict on the divided Korean Peninsula would devastate the South as well.

Chang also referred to remarks by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who called North Korea "a terrorist regime" on Wednesday.

"We make it clear that

there should be no mistake in judgment and a worst-case scenario should never unfold on the Korean Peninsula," Chang said in his statement.

South Korea, while saying it wants to continue its close military alliance with Washington, fears that the standoff between the United States and North Korea could lead to clashes and has urged the United States to seek a peaceful settlement.

"The situation on the Korean Peninsula is inching closer to the phase of serious crisis," the North's state-run daily Rodong Sinmun said. "There is no guarantee that the U.S. warhawks, seized by extreme war fever, would not ignite a war of aggression."

Active duty not just for the young

BY WOODY BAIRD

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — David Bledsoe hasn't seen combat in more than three decades and the 54-year-old National Guardsman didn't think there was much chance he'd be called to active duty.

But Bledsoe and scores of other aging reservists are finding out the nation still values their services as it prepares for possible war with Iraq.

As of early last month, nearly 37 percent of the reservists and guard members called to active duty were older than 40, the Pentagon said.

That compares to less than 15 percent of officers 40 or older in regular active duty and fewer than 7 percent in that age group among enlisted personnel, according to Pentagon figures for 2000.

Bledsoe, a helicopter pilot and Vietnam veteran, could be back in combat just six years short of his expected military retirement.

He was ordered to join the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., which found out Thursday it was headed overseas.

The Army didn't disclose the division's exact destination beyond saying it was assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of operations, which includes the Persian Gulf region.

"By being a member of the Guard you know [being called up] is a possibility, but I didn't consider it a major probability," Bledsoe said by telephone.

But Lt. Col. Dan Stoneking, a Pentagon spokesman, said age alone is not a factor.

"As long as you're an eligible member of the Guard or reserves and you're deployable, you're healthy, trained and capable, we do not discriminate against age," he said. "And those older members ... just bring that much more experience."

Kitty Hawk ordered to Gulf

BY RICK CHERNITZER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — They're anxious, excited and mad.

That was the gamut of reactions Saturday from spouses and a crewmembers aboard the USS Kitty Hawk, ordered last week to join several other carrier battle groups in the Persian Gulf for a possible showdown with Iraq. Rumors floated around for weeks that the Kitty Hawk might be called in, and now, with the order out on the street, family members are mustering their courage and bracing for whatever comes.

A Navy official confirmed Saturday the ship will be heading to Central Command's area of responsibility.

Leata Cheng, whose husband, Lt. j.g. Harry Cheng, has been aboard the Kitty Hawk for two years, had heard rumors the ship was returning here Saturday.

"I was real excited about

that, and let myself believe that, 'Hey, he might be back today.' So I was looking forward to it," she said. "My husband is always telling me not to listen to rumors, and he was right, because then I heard they are going out to the Gulf.

"Then, I was sad and mad. I'm glad I have a job that keeps me busy. I'd rather be doing that than staying at home and crying."

Still, Cheng is fully aware of the Gulf's potential for danger.

"It's a serious thing," she said. "I know they'll be fine. Kitty Hawk is the 911 carrier, so I trust they'll do their job and come back safely."

For Marie Spencer, wife of Master Chief Petty Officer Jeffrey Spencer, the fear of the unknown her husband is sailing into "is killing me softly every night."

"I just pray everything will be OK," she said. "It's really difficult. Every night, you're always thinking about them, hoping they'll come back in one piece."

Spencer's children often ask when their father is coming home, she said, and it's difficult keeping a strong face for them. But she perseveres.

"We wish that this war would not have to happen, so they can come back safe and see their family," she added.

One Kitty Hawk crewmember, Petty Officer 3rd Class Foster Jackson, left behind as part of the ship's "beach detachment," said few doubted their next mission would involve a trip into harm's way.

"It was not a surprise," he said. "It was expected, especially with everything that's going on with the Gulf."

Jackson believes his ship is "very prepared" to join the other carrier groups in the Gulf. But he also knows this might not be any routine mission, and that's a little unsettling.

"I got a lot of friends on the ship," he said.

E-mail Rick Chernitzer at: chernitzerr@pstripes.osd.mil

Navy: Vinson will operate in Western Pacific

Stars and Stripes

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is moving toward Japan to fill the spot normally occupied by the U.S. 7th Fleet's USS Kitty Hawk, which has orders for the Persian Gulf, where it'll join four other carriers already in or near the region.

Secretary of Defense

Donald Rumsfeld directed the Vinson to the Pacific to keep North Korea in check and serve as an immediate response to any needs that might arise from that precarious situation, according to various media reports.

North Korea recently expelled international nuclear inspectors and last week restarted a nuclear plant capable of producing weapons-

grade plutonium. The United States says it wants to settle the dispute with Pyongyang peacefully but has warned it will maintain strong forces in the Western Pacific.

"The USS Carl Vinson will be operating in the Western Pacific," a Navy official confirmed Saturday afternoon, speaking on the condition of anonymity. No other details were available.

Marines charged in bomb case

TUNKHANNOCK, Pa. — Two Marines on unexcused leave from Camp Lejeune and a third person downloaded bomb-making information from the Internet and threatened to use the explosives at the base, state police said Saturday.

A family member contacted police about the plan, leading to the arrests of three people in Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, police said.

Richard D. Morrison Jr., 21, of Tunkhannock and Richard Thomas Medders, 22, of Trussville, Ala., both Marines, and Janna Rebecca Lynn Smith, 27, of Richlands, N.C., about 20 miles from the base, were arraigned Saturday and were being held on \$100,000 bail each.

Police arrested them early Saturday and charged them with conspiracy to risk a catastrophe, a felony, and making bomb threats and terroristic threats, both misdemeanors.

Morrison and Medders reportedly left Camp Lejeune, N.C., about two weeks ago, according to state police in Tunkhannock.

A preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 18.

From The Associated Press

Flag a nuisance?

DETROIT — To Ray Saelens, the sound of his 12-by 18-foot American flag flapping in the wind was the collective voice of soldiers fighting for freedom.

To his neighbor, it was just a nuisance.

Now Saelens is fighting a ticket he received because his neighbor said the flag made too much noise.

It was 11:45 p.m. Monday when Chesterfield Township police knocked on Saelens' door to hand him a ticket. His neighbor, Mark Grucz, had complained the noise from Saelens' flag was keeping him awake as it flapped in winds exceeding 40 mph.

The police said that under a township code, they had no choice but to ticket him. It's up to the township's lawyers to decide whether to pursue it

Saelens plans to fight the ticket, which carries a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail. He'll have plenty of help. Since word of the ticket spread, he's received dozens of calls from people outraged that an American flag could lead to a citation

Man vs. machine

NEW YORK — That's one small step for a man, one giant saving of face for mankind.

Chess legend Garry Kasparov, still smarting after his 1997 loss to a computer, agreed to a draw in the last game of his Man vs. Machine series with Israeli chess program Deep Junior. The sixgame series, sanctioned by the sport's governing body, finished 3-3.

"I had one item on my agenda today: not to lose," Kasparov said after Friday's finale. "And a draw was a good result."

Kasparov said he played better than Deep Junior in the deciding game and would have pressed for a win in a similar position against a human opponent. But, he said, he feared even a tiny mistake would have been severely punished by the computer.

From wire services

Investigators want to ID object near shuttle

By Marcia Dunn

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston Investigators are trying to identify an object spotted near Columbia shortly after it reached orbit as they try to determine what caused the shut-

tle to break apart.

Retired Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr., who is leading an independent board investigating the disaster, told reporters Sunday that the tracking data from the U.S. Space Command Center in Nebraska could show the object to be water that is routinely dumped from the shuttle, which then turned to ice.

"It could well have been an on-orbit piece associated with the shuttle which was supposed to have been there," Gehman said. He stressed that the report still needs to be analyzed.

Meanwhile, investigators continued to study a two-foot section of Columbia's wing and a 300-pound object that appears to be a door panel from one of the shuttle's wheel wells found in Texas.

The wing includes the carbon-covered edge designed to protect Columbia's insulating tiles during re-entry and could provide hard evidence of what went wrong, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said Satur-

In the shuttle's final eight minutes the morning of Feb. 1, temperatures surged in the

Columbia crew had no special insurance

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Americans who died aboard space shuttle Columbia were eligible for the standard life insurance offered to military personnel and federal employees, but NASA carried no special coverage specifically for astronauts, officials say.

"There is a limit on what type of benefits the federal government provides," said NASA spokeswoman Eileen Hawley. "We look at this as larger than a monetary issue."

"We are committed to helping these families and we have a support network," she said. "They are ... going to be part of the NASA family.'

Five of the astronauts were members of the U.S. military and eligible for coverage under Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, which has a standard death benefit of \$250,000. There is no increased payment for military members if the death is work-related.

NASA and military officials would not disclose if the five had elected coverage and at what level.

The military does provide the surviving spouse \$935 a month, plus an additional \$234 per child until age 18. It also provides other benefits such as \$6,000 in cash for immediate needs and up to \$6,900 for burial costs and housing allowances. These benefits are provided regardless of how the servicemember died.

NASA provides the surviv-

ing spouse half the deceased's salary, plus \$24,354 annually, but that applies only to the lone civilian astronaut. Kalpana Chawla. NASA is not disclosing salaries of the victims, but the agency says an astronaut's salary can range \$56,247 to \$86,974.

NASA officials said they believe Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon would have had life insurance coverage through his service in the Israeli Air Force, but had no details. Israel's Defense Department declined comment.

Both the Defense Department and the Office of Personnel Management cited privacy considerations in declining to discuss the specific insurance coverage of any individual.

left landing gear compartment, and the brake lines began overheating one by one. Sensors began showing overheating across other areas of the left wing and adjoining fuselage before Mission Control lost all contact.

O'Keefe spoke following a memorial service at Louisiana's Barksdale Air Force Base, where pieces of the shuttle are being stored. Searchers have recovered remains of all seven astronauts and more than 12,000 pieces of debris that rained down across two

Every possible scenario still is being considered, from the impact of a large chunk of hard insulating foam that hit the shuttle seconds after liftoff Jan. 16, to a strike from a piece of space junk, to a lightninglike electrical phenomenon.

Late Saturday, NASA said the U.S. Strategic Command apparently tracked something flying near Columbia after it had reached orbit.

Space agency spokeswoman Eileen Hawley said it was possible the object came from Columbia, but stressed "this is very raw data" that had just been turned over to investigators and that it was too early to speculate.

Imagery experts also are poring over a high-resolution photo taken by an Air Force telescope a minute or two before Columbia broke apart during re-entry. Some have suggested the leading edge of the left wing looks as if it could be damaged, and the photo shows a gray streak that could be a fiery plume trailing the wing.

Schools may lose money if they bar students, teachers from praying

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's fresh guidance about how to handle prayer in schools — at the risk of losing federal aid — amounts to a mandate for more religion in public education, a critic says.

But supporters say the Education Department's directive Friday to schools may clarify the debate and free students and teachers to express themselves without fear of reprisal.

The department's message: Schools must allow students to pray outside the classroom and permit teachers to do the same. At the same time, school officials cannot pray with students or try to promote or discourage a particular religious

"The Bush administration is clearly trying to push the envelope on behalf of prayer in public schools," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "Administration lawyers have selectively read case law to come to the conclusions they wanted, and school administrators should be aware of that.'

Under federal law, the burden is now on schools to prove they have no policy that prevents constitutionally protected prayer. The department's new guide-

lines make clear that schools can lose their federal aid funds if they don't com-

Public schools should not be hostile to the religious rights of their students and their families," Education Secretary Rod Paige said. "At the same time, school officials may not compel students to participate in prayer or other activi-

The instructions broadly follow the same direction given by the Clinton administration and the courts. Prayer is generally allowed provided it happens outside of classroom instruction and is initiated by students, not by school officials.

Muslims flock to holy city as hajj nears pinnacle

BY ALAA SHAHINE

The Associated Press

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — About 2 million Muslim pilgrims crammed cars and buses Sunday and clung to the roofs of moving vehicles as they headed toward Mina, a tent city that comes to life only during the hajj.

Chanting "at thy service, Oh God, at thy service," pilgrims started their journey in the early hours of the morning, causing a massive traffic jam in roads leading to Mina, where they will spend the night in 44,000 white, fireproof tents.

The pilgrims will leave Mina at dawn Monday for the short trek to Mount Arafat, marking the climax of the pilgrimage.

Before leaving Mecca, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims completed the first ritual of the hajj by circling the Kaaba, the large cubic stone structure that Muslims face during their five daily prayers.

About 500,000 pilgrims from inside Saudi Arabia joined about 1.5 million overseas arrivals in this year's hajj, which is taking place under tight security because of fears of demonstrations against any U.S.-led war in Iraq to topple President Saddam Hussein.

The United States has heightened its terror alert status following intelligence reports pointing to a possible attack timed to coincide with the pilgrimage.

In a statement carried late Saturday on the official Saudi Press Agency, Saudi authorities said accidents so far this year had been "insignificant." More than 20,000 security personnel are deployed in Mecca, and medical facilities also are available.

Many pilgrims this year have said they were praying to God to support the Islamic nation against its enemies, and hoped that another war in the region could be averted. Anti-U.S. sentiment is running high in the Muslim world because of America's perceived support of Israel against the Palestinians and its threats of war against Iraq—examples many Muslims see as campaigns against their faith.

Still, a spiritual atmosphere and sense religious duty prevailed over politics.

"I would not have come back again if I had not been enjoying the religious atmosphere here. And I am willing to come again, God willing. May God forgive us for all our sins," said Hassan La'lou, a 43-year old Syrian pilgrim performing the rituals for the fourth time.

The pilgrimage to Mecca, birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad and home to Islam's holiest shrine, is required once in a lifetime for all Muslims who are able-bodied and can afford the trip. There are more than 1 billion Muslims worldwide.

In '99, bin Laden's kin tried to use hajj as cover

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Increased U.S. fears of terror attacks may not be unfounded. The hajj can provide cover for militant organizations attempting to secretly place operatives around the globe to stage attacks.

Four years ago, Osama bin Laden's relatives, worried about his ill health, tried to use the pilgrimage as a cover to visit the Saudi-born terrorist while he was holed up in Afghanistan, says a former Afghan airline official who was approached by the fugitive terrorist's family.

The sheer number of travelers for the five-day pilgrimage, which typically draws about 2 million Muslim visitors, means that tracking movements becomes difficult if not impossible —— and would-be terrorists know it.

During the 1999 hajj, bin Laden's mother and brother apparently contacted officials at Afghanistan's state-run airline, Ariana, to sneak aboard a flight to visit the ailing terrorist in his Afghan hideaway.

A former airline official, speaking to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity, provided details of the attempt to smuggle the relatives into Afghanistan after he met a brother of bin Laden.

At the time, bin Laden was ill and U.N. sanctions had grounded Afghanistan's national airlines — except for flights to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage.

In the end, bin Laden's brother and mother were not taken aboard the Ariana flight because U.N. workers were monitoring everyone who got off the aircraft back in Kabul, he said.

This year Pakistan imposed stricter controls on its pilgrims, said Brigadier Javed Iqbal Cheema, director general of the National Crisis Management Center.

In Afghanistan similar controls have been imposed on its 25,822 pilgrims who were given visas to Saudi Arabia. Their identities have to be verified by the head of their local mosque, then they are registered with the local police. However, returning pilgrims either in either country rarely get more than a glance.

According to Islam teachings, the hajj is a spiritual journey that cleanses the soul and wins absolution.

Food shortages in Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya — Almost 40 million Africans — more than the population of Texas — are short of food, left to rely on aid to stave off hunger and even starvation.

Perhaps as troubling, although rarely mentioned, is that almost all of these people live within 100 miles of well-fed towns. Farms just a few hundred miles away can have bumper crops.

Yet Africans still periodically suffer critical food shortages.

The World Food Program says poor harvests have left 4 percent of Africa's population — 23 million people in the south, 13 million in the Horn of Africa and 2 million in the west and center — without enough food.

The agency said Jan. 29 that only an emergency operation to ship in hundreds of thousands of tons of food had staved off starvation in six southern countries.

Drought in Ethiopia

FIK, Ethiopia — Ethiopia's drought compounds everyday hardships for the 275,000 people who live in the region around Fik, most of whom get by on less than a dollar a day.

Weakened by hunger, children in Fik quickly succumb to rampant diarrhea and endemic diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Save the Children UK, the only Western aid group working in the area, says an average of 17 children die in the zone every day.

Arafat welcomes talks

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — shunned by the Israeli government for more than a year — on Saturday welcomed the renewal of highlevel contacts between the two sides and called for additional talks.

But a senior Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat, said the U.S.-backed proposal for relaunching full-fledged negotiations had been put on hold until Israel forms a new government, a process expected to take several weeks.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held secret talks Wednesday with a Palestinian negotiator, raising the possibility that the sides could make a new push for peace.

Win is in Love's grasp

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Davis Love III shot a 5-under 67 on the tough Spyglass Hill course Saturday to take a two-stroke lead over Mike Weir, Tom Lehman and Rod Pampling into the final round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Two years ago, Love erased a seven-stroke Sunday deficit to win at Pebble Beach — but he hasn't won a tournament since. Injuries kept him off his once-dominant form, and he dealt with mental stress from five top-five finishes without a victory last season.

Love had a 10-under 206 total.

Six players held the lead for part of the third round, but Love's steady play at Spyglass — away from the celebrity-studded field crowding Pebble Beach Golf Links — allowed him to climb ahead. Weir matched Love's 67 with a brilliant front nine, while Lehman and Pampling shot 70s.

Casey win ANZ Championship

SYDNEY, Australia - England's Paul Casey won the

Sports in brief

ANZ Championship on Sunday, scoring six points for a four-point victory over Australians Stuart Appleby and Nick O'Hern.

and Nick O'Hern.
The tournament, co-sanctioned by the European and Australian tour, was played under a modified Stableford scoring system.
Casey had five birdies and four bogeys Sunday to finish with 45 points on the oceanside New South Wales course. Under normal stroke-play rules, Casey's closing 1-under 71 would have given him a two-stroke victory over Appleby and O'Hern at 17-under 271.

Morgan moves into lead of Royal Caribbean Classic

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Gil Morgan birdied the final three holes for a 4-under 68 and a one-stroke lead

over Australia's Rodger Davis in the Royal Caribbean Classic.

Morgan, a 21-time winner on the Champions Tour, had a 6-under 138 total on the Crandon Park course.

Davis shot a 70.

First-round leader Bobby Wadkins (74) was two strokes back along with Hubert Green (68), Tom Purtzer (69) and Canada's Dave Barr (70).

Mosley's comeback bout ends in bloody head butt

LAS VEGAS — Shane Mosley didn't get a chance to look spectacular against Raul Marquez. Now he has to see if he was good enough to get another fight with Oscar De La Hoya.

Mosley's fight with Marquez was stopped in the third round Saturday night and ruled a no contest after two accidental head butts opened up deep cuts over both eyes of Marquez.

over both eyes of Marquez.

Continued on Page 10

Golden State's Richardson defends dunk title

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jason Richardson's bounce pass off Carlos Boozer's fore-head was the highlight of the after-noon. His final throw-down in the dunk contest was the perfect ending to the

Richardson had the most dynamic day of any of the participants in All-Star Saturday — even if one of his oppo-nents in the Rookie Challenge wasn't all that happy about it.

Richardson led all scorers with 31 points in the rookie game, ending it by hitting a three-pointer after he bounced a pass to himself off Boozer.

The second-year Golden State Warriors guard then became the first repeat winner of the dunk contest since Michael Jordan did it 15 years earlier.

Richardson finished things off with a spectacular dunk, coming in along the spectacular dunk, coming in along the baseline, catching his lob pass, putting the ball between his legs and switch-ing it from his right hand to his left be-fore slamming it through. umph as Jordan, one of five judges, gave him a perfect score of 10. The other judges gave him the same score, giving Richardson perfect scores of 50 on three of his four dunks in the con-

Peja Stojakovic of Sacramento also was a repeat winner, taking the three-

was a repeat winner, taking the three-point shootout for the second straight year by defeating the same player he beat in the final round of last year's shootout, Wesley Person.

The big difference this time was that Stojakovic was awarded a do-over in the final round after a buzzer inadvert-ently went off as he was midway through shooting his five racks of balls.

Also, Jason Kidd of New Jersey won a new event, a sort of obstacle course in-volving dribbling, passing and shoot-ing called the Skills Challenge. And a team comprised of Magic Johnson, Lisa Leslie of the WNBA Los

Johnson, Lisa Leshe of the Wish Los Angeles Sparks, Marko Jaric of the Los Angeles Clippers and celebrity Ashton Kutcher rallied in the Hoop It Up con-test to beat a team led by former Hawks superstar Dominique Wilkins.

This version of All-Star Saturday will best be remembered for the doings of Richardson — especially his act of bouncing the ball off Boozer's forehead and then catching it and shooting a three-pointer that capped the Sophomore team's 132-112 victory over the Rookie team.

"He was just trying to get the growd."

"He was just trying to get the crowd riled up, but he has no class. You don't do that," Boozer said.

do that," Boozer said.

Told that Boozer was offended, Richardson said he intended no disrespect to the Cleveland rookie.

"Fans like stuff like that — a little streetball," Richardson said.

Richardson's Golden State teammate, Gilbert Arenas, scored 30 points and was picked as the MVP as the sophomores, dominated, the second half omores dominated the second half. But it was Richardson who provided most of the game's signature mo-

In the first half, he got a head start on defending his dunk championship with a couple of jaw-dropping moves. He made a 360-degree spin on his

way to a one-handed slam and fol-lowed that with a reverse two-hander that left the backboard shaking and the crowd oohing and aahing.

ular plays," Richardson said. "When I got in the game, I tried to give them

He wasn't through. With the clock He wasn't through. With the clock winding down and the game in hand, Richardson dribbled leisurely outside the three-point arc before a quick flip off Boozer's head. As if playing with a yo-yo, the ball bounced straight back to Richardson, who swished the shot for the game's final points.

"It was no different than Jay Williams putting the ball between my lens it's

nt was no unierent inal Jay Williams putting the ball between my legs. It's not an NBA move, but it's streetball. It's no different than me doing a crossover on Carlos and putting him on the ground. He'd still be embarrassed.

"Carlos came up and said kiddingly:
"Why'd you do me like that?' I told him
it was nothing personal, but I guess he
sees it differently." Richardson said.
In the finals of the dunk contest, Rich-

ardson defeated the 2001 champion, Desmond Mason of the Seattle Super-Sonics, to become the first repeat win-ner since Jordan did it in 1987 and 1988. "I knew I had a winner when I threw it up. I think it was a pretty good dunk,"

Richardson said.

Proof's in the pudding

Anjelica Huston was crowned Harvard's Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year on Thursday, but only after much comic confusion over whether she wasn't actually the singer Whitney Hous-

Huston received the award honoring top entertainers after the traditional parade through Harvard Square, accompanied by students dressed in drag.

Huston, 51, was introduced as Houston, and the confusion continued as a member of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, an undergraduate dramatic organization, rushed onstage to reveal the mistake.

Incubus sues label

The rock band Incubus has filed a lawsuit against Sony Corp. in an attempt to break free from a contract that requires them to make four more albums with the record company.

Band members Michael Einziger, Brandon Boyd, Jose Pasillas and Alex Katunich filed the lawsuit Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court. They're ask-

Faces 'n' places

ing a judge to rule that California's labor law allows them to stop recording for Sony and get a new deal from another label.

Incubus joins a growing list of music acts such as Don Henley, Beck, Courtney Love and the Dixie Chicks who have demanded the freedom to negotiate less restrictive deals to capitalize on their success. In many of the cases to date, the artists and record companies have reached settlements.

Incubus, who've sold an estimated 7 million albums and earned critical acclaim for their 2001 album "Morning View," objects to Sony's common practice of deducting such costs as video production and packaging from the artists' cut, said band manager Steve Rennie.

Sony responded to the lawsuit Thursday by issuing a statement saying, "We have the highest regard for Incubus and their music and take great pride in the work we have done together to build a worldwide audience for them. Incubus is signed to an exclusive recording contract with Sony Music.'

Three cheers for No. 3

Sheryl Crow and Kenny Chesney are among the singers who will headline the Dale Earnhardt Tribute Concert, a charity event Earnhardt's widow, Teresa, is organizing.

The concert is set for June 28 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., and will be the first nonracing event to take place there.

Proceeds will benefit the Dale Earnhardt Legacy Program, a charity that will donate money to children's, wildlife and educational programs, "supporting causes Dale championed in his lifetime, Teresa Earnhardt said.

Brooks & Dunn and Alabama also are scheduled to perform. Tickets go on sale March 22. Premium subscribers to the Dale Earnhardt Inc. Web site, which is being launched this week, will be able to buy tickets beginning on March 3 — 03-03-03.

Earnhardt, whose racing number was 3, died in a crash during the final turn of the Daytona 500 in February 2001. He was 49.

From wire services

No. 1 Florida 75, No. 22 Alabama 56

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Matt Bonner scored 21 points

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Matt Bonner scored 21 points Saturday to help top-ranked Florida rediscover its winning ways, 75-56 over slumping No. 22 Alabama. The Gators (19-3, 8-1 Southeastern Conference), ranked first for the first time in school history this week, lost 70-55 at kentucky in their debut game as No. 1 on Tuesday. They recovered nicely against Alabama (13-7, 3-6), a team that knows all about a No. 1 hangover. Since making it to the top spot in the Associated Press poll Dec. 23, the Crimson Tide has gone 5-7, including five losses in its past six games. Freshman Anthony Roberson was brilliant again for Florida, making four three-pointers to finish with 16 points. David Lee had 12 points and eight rebounds.

No. 2 Arizona 75, Washington St. 62

PULLMAN, Wash. — Jason Gardner scored 19 points to help Arizona beat Washington State for the 36th straight time.

Arizona (18-2, 10-1 Pac-10), which needed overtime to beat Washington on Thursday, remained unbeaten in six conference road games this season.

The Wildcats have not lost to Washington State since Jan. 30, 1986, a 17-year winning streak that currently is the longest in the conference.

Washington State (5-15, 0-11) played with tremendous intensity but lost its 11th consecutive game and 18th straight in conference play.

18th straight in conference play.

Milton Riley led the Cougars with 19 points before fouling out in the closing minutes.

No. 3 Texas 95, Texas A&M 87

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — T.J. Ford had 19 points,

College basketball

nine assists and six rebounds, and Sydmill Harris added 17 points as Texas held off Texas A&M. The Longhorns (15-4, 6-2 Big 12), coming off a surprising loss at Colorado earlier this week, won their ninth straight in College Station dating to 1994. Texas A&M senior guard Bernard King became the Big 12's career scoring leader when he hit a free throw with 11:48 left to give him 1,831 points, surpassing Marcus Fizer's total for lowa State from 1997-2000.

But King struggled all night, going 1-for-12 from the

But King struggled all night, going 1-for-12 from the field and even blowing a wide-open dunk that would have put the Aggies up by seven.
Freshman Antoine Wright led Texas A&M with 25

No. 5 Louisville 81, Houston 55

HOUSTON — Marvin Stone led a balanced Louisville attack with 17 points as the Cardinals extended their winning streak to 17 games with a victory over Houston

winning streak to 1/ games with a victory over nouston.

The victory extended Louisville's best start since opening 19-1 in the 1955-56 season. The Cardinals have the nation's longest active winning streak, and it is their longest since winning their final 17 games in 1986 — ending with a national title.

Reece Gaines scored 16 points for Louisville (18-1, 8-0 Conference USA) to become the ninth player in school history to crack 1,700 career points.

The Cougars (6-13, 4-4) committed 22 turnovers and shot only 26 percent from the field.

No. 6 Kentucky 80, Mississippi 62

OXFORD, Miss. — Erik Daniels scored 20 points and Kentucky, playing its 1,000th Southeastern Confer-

ence game, overwhelmed Mississippi for its 12th straight victory.
Keith Bogans added 17 points and Gerald Fitch 14 for coach Tubby Smith, who won his 150th game in five-plus seasons at Kentucky.
Kentucky (18-3, 8-0) has its longest streak since winning 13 in a row in 1998.
Justin Reed scored 14 points and David Sanders had 13 for the Rebels (12-8, 3-6), who have lost four straight.

No. 7 Oklahoma 91, Baylor 42

NORMAN, Okla. — Hollis Price scored 17 points and led five players in double figures as Oklahoma made a season-high 13 three-pointers in a victory over Baylor, the Sooners' 34th straight home victory. Oklahoma (16-3, 7-1 Big 12) showed no rust from a weeklong layoff, winning by its widest margin since a 109-50 victory over Eastern Illinois in December 2001. The loss was the worst for Baylor (10-9, 1-7) since a 50-point romp by Clemson in December 1983. The Sooners shot a season-best 58 percent in beating Baylor for the 18th straight time. The Bears lost their 22nd straight road game. De'Angelo Alexander scored 15 points for Oklahoma, which essentially got a tuneup for its game Monday night at No. 3 Texas.

No. 12 Kansas 82, Kansas State 64

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kirk Hinrich scored 28 points as Kansas came back to beat Kansas State, the Jayhawks' 26th straight victory over their state rivals. Keith Langford had 18 and Aaron Miles 13 for Kansas (17-5, 7-1 Big 12), which has not lost to Kansas State (11-10, 2-6) since Jan. 17, 1994. The Jayhawks have not lost in Manhattan since Jan. 29, 1983, a span of 20 games.

Continued on Page 11

Avalanche 5, Red Wings 3

DENVER — Colorado kept Brett Hull out of the 700-goal club and their un-beaten streak alive.

Milan Hejduk had three goals and Radim Vrbata scored the winner with 7:08 left as Colorado extended its un-

victory over Detroit on Saturday.
It was the second meeting in three days between the past two Stanley Cup champions. The Avalanche also beat the Red Wings 1-0 on Thursday night in Petroit

night in Detroit.

Adam Foote added a goal for Colorado, 6-0-2 in the past eight games — its longest streak since going 10 games without a defeat late in 2001. The Avalanche haven't lost since a 4-2 setback to Detroit on Jan. 16.

NHL

Hull's bid to become the sixth player to reach 700 goals has stalled during a seven-game drought, his longest of the

Tomas Holmstrom scored two goals for Detroit, 0-4-2-0 in its past six games. Brendan Shanahan also

Penguins 5, Bruins 2

BOSTON - Mario Lemieux had four assists to become the 10th player in NHL history with 1,000 as Pittsburgh broke a four-game losing streak with a victory over Boston.

Alexei Kovalev and Steve McKenna each had two goals for the Penguins, coming off a 6-0 home loss to Florida on Thursday night.

In that game, Lemieux was ejected after fighting.
Randy Robitaille added a goal for the

Penguins. Joe Thornton scored twice

Flyers 2, Rangers 1

PHILADELPHIA — Sami Kapanen scored the tiebreaking goal in his first game with Philadelphia.

Kapanen, acquired Friday in a deal

with Carolina, has just seven goals this

with Carolina, has just seven goals this season after scoring 27 last season. It was the Flyers' second power-play goal of the game, tying their high this season. Marcus Ragnarsson scored with the man advantage to give Philadelphia a 1-0 lead in the second. Radek Dvorak scored for the Rangers, 0-2-1-1 under coach-General Manager Glen Sather and 0-5-1-1 in its past seven.

seven.

Maple Leafs 3. Canadiens 1

TORONTO - Mats Sundin scored his 25th and 26th goals as Toronto won its season-high fifth straight.

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 9

The crowd at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino booed loudly as the ring doctor advised referee Kenny Bayless to stop the fight at 2:41 of the third round with blood running down the face of Marquez. "It was cut down to the bone," Dr. William Berliner said.

Mosley had vowed to look spectacular in his first

Mosley had vowed to look spectacular in his first fight at 154 pounds. It was a critical fight since he was coming off of two losses to Vernon Forrest that cost him the welterweight title.

Mosley has a Sept. 13 date with De La Hoya, whom he beat in June 2000 for the welterweight title. But Mosley (38-2, 35 knockouts) has not signed for the fight because he is unhappy with his \$4.25 million

Ward hangs on to USOC post

CHICAGO — Lloyd Ward will forfeit a \$184,800 bonus for an ethics violation that sparked yet another U.S. Olympic Committee scandal, but he will remain as the group's chief executive officer.

The USOC's executive committee voted 16-1 Saturday to accept the recommendation of its compensation compilers.

tion committee, which included a "strong letter of rep-

No formal vote was taken on Ward's job, but the committee said its actions were an expression of sup-

ort.
"Lloyd screwed up. I can't say it any clearer," said
Bill Martin, the USOC's interim president. "But we've
got to get beyond that. Lloyd has performed, you
heard it. I'm not going to repeat it. We have the faith
in him and we're going to go forward with him."

Canadian woman wins downhill

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland — Melanie Turgeon won the downhill at the world championships Sunday, Canada's first title in the showcase race in 10 years. Alexandra Meissnitzer of Austria and Corinne Rey-Bellet of Switzerland shared the silver medal.

Sports in brief continued

For the United States, Jonna Mendes was sixth, with Kirsten Clark 19th, Libby Ludlow 23rd and Caro-

line Lalive 30th.

Turgeon's gold came 10 years after Kate Pace won the downhill for Canada at the worlds in Morioka,

Croatia ousts U.S. in Davis Cup

ZAGREB, Croatia - The United States was eliminated by Croatia in the first round of the Davis Cup on Sunday when James Blake was beaten in four sets in

Sunday when James Blake was beaten in four sets in the opening singles match.

The United States has won more Davis Cups than any other nation but has now been ousted in the first round two of the past three years.

Neither Croatia nor the former Yugoslavia has ever reached the Davis Cup final. Croatia will play in Spain in the quarterfinals in the quarterfinals.

Blake was beaten 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 as the Americans, winners of a record 31 Davis Cup titles, were knocked out in the first round for the seventh time. Taylor Dent faced Croatia's Mario Ancic in the final

laylor Dent faced Croatia's Mario Ancic in the final singles match. Dent took the place of Mardy Fish. Captain Patrick McEnroe had a makeshift lineup. Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi opted not to play, while Andy Roddick is sidelined by a wrist injury. Blake, at 23, is the veteran of the team — and his first Davis Cup match came 15 months ago. No one else on the roster had played Davis Cup singles before this year.

fore this year.

Trailing 2-1 after Blake and Mardy Fish lost a five-set doubles match to Ljubicic and Goran Ivanisevic on Saturday, the pressure was on Blake to keep the

on Saturday, the pressure was on blake to keep the tie alive against Ljubicic, who had 30 aces in a victory over Fish on Friday.

Blake had trouble handling his opponent's serve, and Ljubicic, who finished with 29 aces, broke serve to take a 4-2 lead in the first set.

Blake had one break point in the second game of the second set, but failed to convert. He stayed on serve, fighting off a break point, and won the second-set tiebreaker 7-5.

Blake broke serve in the third game of the third set, the second server in the third server.

ending Ljubicic's run of 42 service games in the tie without a break. But Ljubicic broke back in the eighth game, evening the set at 4-all.

Blake trailed love-40 in that game. He shouted "Put the sign down!" at a fan behind him. A fan in the stands shouted "Go home James."

Blake was never the same after that.
Ljubicic took the next game, and then broke Blake to win the set.

Earnhardt holds on in Shootout

Earnhardt holds on in Shootout

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. powered past Jeff Gordon five laps from the end Saturday night and held off the four-time Winston Cup champion to win the Budweiser Shootout.

Earnhardt appeared able to wheel his red No. 8 Chevrolet to the front any time he wanted, staying at or near the lead throughout the 70-lap made-for-TV event at Daytona International Speedway.

Little E was already considered the favorite to win the Daytona 500 pole on Sunday and to win the big race on Feb. 16. His performance in the first Shootout under the lights didn't hurt that speculation.

With Gordon, a two-time Shootout winner, leading at the start of lap 66, Earnhardt, with some drafting help from Ryan Newman, took the outside line on the high-banked 2½-mile oval and charged to the front. Gordon pushed his Chevy hard the last five laps, trying to get back past Earnhardt, but he never quite caught the high-flying third-generation driver.

Asked about taking the lead, Junior said, "I can't remember, there was so much happening the last two laps. But I stayed out front. That's a tough win."

It was only the second time Earnhardt has qualified for the non-points race featuring the previous year's Winston Cup pole winners and former Shootout champions. Last year, he finished second to Tony Stewart.

pions. Last year, he finished second to Tony Stewart.

NHL continued

Continued from Page 10

Jyrki Lumme also scored, and Ed Belfour made 32 saves for the Maple Leafs, who are on their longest winning streak since winning five in a row Dec. 6-15, 2001.

Jan Bulis scored for the Canadiens.

Senators 3, Thrashers 1

OTTAWA - Shaun Van Allen and Daniel Alfredsson scored special-teams goals and Marian Hossa added his 34th goal into an empty net for Otta-

Van Allen scored a short-handed goal in the first and Alfredsson broke a 1-1 tie with a power-play goal in the second.

Ilya Kovalchuk scored his 30th goal for Atlanta.

Islanders 3, Sabres 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Oleg Kvasha scored his eighth goal of the season 8:42 into the final period for New York.

Aaron Asham tied it earlier in the Aaron Asiam fied it earlier in the third period for the Islanders, while Shawn Bates added a short-handed empty-net goal with 8.5 seconds left. The Islanders snapped a two-game los-ing streak as Garth Snow turned aside

Former Islander Tim Connolly scored for the Sabres.

Lightning 4, Panthers 4

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jay Bouwmeester scored a power-play goal with 12 sec-onds left in regulation as Florida over-came a three-goal deficit to tie Tampa

Olli Jokinen scored his 27th and 28th goals for Florida, with the second pulling the Panthers within a goal with 8:14

to play.
Viktor Kozlov also scored for the Panthers, and set up Bouwmeester's tying slap shot that got past Nikolai Khabibu-

Nolan Pratt, Dave Andreychuk, Brad Richards and Alexander Svitov scored for Tampa Bay.

Blues 4, Sharks 1

ST. LOUIS - Keith Tkachuk scored his seventh goal in five games to snap a second-period tie as St. Louis beat an Jose to improve to 3-0-2 in its past five games.

Dallas Drake added his third goal in four games, Pavol Demitra and Doug Weight also scored, and Al MacInnis had two assists for the Blues. Jonathan Cheechoo scored for the Sharks.

Predators 3, **Blue Jackets 2**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — David Legwand scored two goals and Scott Walker had three assists for Nashville.

Andy Delmore also scored for the Predators. Espen Knutson and David Vyborny scored for Columbus.

Stars 3, Coyotes 1

PHOENIX - Jere Lehtinen's tiebreaking goal in the second period helped Dallas extend its unbeaten streak to five games.

Ulf Dahlen also scored for the Stars who have lost just once in their past 18 games (13-1-4-0) while outscoring their opponents 61-33. Rob DiMaio had an empty-net goal with 50.1 seconds to

Ron Tugnutt, who absorbed the only loss during the Stars' streak when he allowed three goals in the first period to Tampa Bay on Jan. 24, had 18 saves, including 12 after Paul Ranheim scored Phoenix's goal in the first period.

Blackhawks 3, Oilers 0

EDMONTON, Alberta - Jocelyn Thibault made 29 saves for his NHL-leading seventh shutout, and Chicago's Steve Thomas, Tyler Arnason and Sergei Berezin scored third-period goals.

Thibault, who has 34 career shut-outs, broke a tie with Toronto's Ed Bel-four and Anaheim's Jean-Sebastien Giguere for the league shutout lead.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

Men's basketball AP Top 25 Fared

Saturday 1. Florida (19-3) beat No. 22 Alabama 75-56. Next: vs. Mississippi, Wednes-

75-56. Next: vs. Mississippi, Wednesday.
2. Arizona (18-2) beat Washington State 75-62. Next: vs. UCLA, Thursday.
3. Texas (15-4) beat Texas A&M 95-87. Next: vs. No. 7 Oklahoma, Monday.
4. Pittsburgh (16-2) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Notre Dame, Sunday.
5. Louisville (18-1) beat Houston 81-55. Next: at Saint Louis, Wednesday.
6. Kentucky (18-3) beat Mississippi 80-62. Next: vs. No. 17 Georgia, Tuesday.

6. Kentucky (18-3) beat Mississippi 80-62. Next: vs. No. 17 Georgia, Tuesday.
7. Oklahoma (16-3) beat Baylor 91-42. Next: at No. 3 Texas, Monday.
8. Maryland (14-5) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Sunday.
9. Duke (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Sunday.
10. Notre Dame (18-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Pittsburgh, Sunday.
11. Oklahoma State (18-2) did not play. Next: at Cincinnati, Sunday.
12. Kansas (17-5) beat Kansas State 82-64. Next: at Baylor, Tuesday.
13. Creighton (21-2) beat Bradley 88-65. Next: vs. Southwest Missouri State, Wednesday.
14. Wake Forest (16-2) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Marquette, Sunday.
15. Marquette (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14 Wake Forest, Sunday.
16. Illinois (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Sunday.
17. Georgia (13-6) lost to Tennessee 78-72. Next: at No. 6 Kentucky, Tuesday.
18. Connecticut (14-5) beat Provi-

day. 18. Connecticut (14-5) beat Provi-

dence 84-68. Next: vs. No. 19 Syracuse, Monday.
19. Syracuse (16-3) beat West Virginia 94-80. Next: at No. 18 Connecticut,

ia 94-80. Next: at No. 18 Connecticut, Monday.
20. Xavier (17-4) beat Dayton 85-77. Next: vs. Rhode Island, Saturday.
21. Missouri (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Sunday.
22. Alabama (13-7) lost to No. 1 Florida 75-56. Next: vs. Auburn, Saturday.
23. Mississippi State (15-5) beat Arkansas 84-54. Next: vs. Mississippi, Saturday.
24. Purdue (15-5) lost to Minnesota 90-68. Next: at Northwestern, Wednesday.

day. 25. Stanford (16-6) did not play. Next: at Oregon State, Sunday.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE | Countrell | Coun

and overtime loss.

Saturday's games

Pittsburgh 5, Boston 2
Colorado 5, Detroit 3
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Ottawa 3, Atlanta 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 1
Toronto 3, Montreal 1
Tampa Bay 4, Florida 4, tie
St. Louis 4, San Jose 1
Nashville 3, Columbus 2
Dallas 3, Phoenix 1
Chicago 3, Edmonton 0

Chicago 3, Edmonton 0 From The Associated Press

Continued from Page 10

Since Bramlage Coliseum opened in 1989, the Jayhawks are 15-0 on the Wildcats' home court. Tim Ellis had 14 points for Kansas State.

No. 13 Creighton 88, Bradley 65

OMAHA, Neb. - Michael Lindeman scored a career-

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Lindeman scored a career-high 21 points and Creighton routed Bradley. The Bluejays (21-2, 11-1 Missouri Valley Confer-ence) won their fifth straight game and 13th in a row at home before a sellout crowd of 9,286. Lindeman made all five of his three-point shots, and Creighton finished 13-for-25 from long range. Kyle Korver added 14 points and Joe Dabbert 10 for

the Bluejays.

Philip Gilbert scored 16 points to lead Bradley (8-14, 4-7), which lost for the fourth time in five games.

Tennessee 78, No. 17 Georgia 72

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Ron Slay scored 33 points and Thaydeus Holden made six free throws down the stretch as Tennessee held off Georgia. The Volunteers (13-6, 5-3 Southeastern Conference)

earned their first victory over a ranked team in five tries this season. They broke a tie and took the lead for good after Slay made the first of two free throws with 2:04 left.

with 2.04 lett.
Holden finished with 15 points, and Brandon Crump had 16. Slay was 12-for-18 from the floor and 4-for-5 on three-pointers.
Georgia (13-6, 5-3) was led by Jarvis Hayes with 19 points, while Chris Daniels added 14 points and 12 rebounds.

No. 18 Connecticut 84, **Providence 68**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Emeka Okafor had 21 points, Ben Gordon added 20 and Connecticut, playing with-

College basketball continued

out its coach and starting point guard, ended an ugly two-game losing streak with a victory over Provi-

This was the second game the Huskies (14-5, 5-3 Big East) played without coach Jim Calhoun, who had surgery to remove a cancerous prostate on Thursday and is expected to miss three-to-four weeks.

Associate coach George Blaney is running the team

in Calhoun's absence.
It was also Connecticut's first game without injured junior guard Taliek Brown, who is expected to miss

four-to-six weeks. Ryan Gomes and Maris Laksa each had 16 points for the Friars (10-10, 3-6), who lost for the fifth time in six games.

No. 19 Syracuse 94, West Virginia 80

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Carmelo Anthony scored a career-high 29 points and had 12 rebounds as Syracuse beat West Virginia.

The Orangemen (16-3, 7-2 Big East) trailed by as many as 15 in the first half but outscored West Virginial (18-3).

ia 48-33 in the second.

Billy Edelin scored a career-high 18 points on 8-for-11 shooting in his seventh collegiate game for

Syracuse.

The Mountaineers (12-8, 3-5) were outrebounded 43-31 and made only 13 of 35 field-goal attempts in the second half. Drew Schifino scored 25 points to lead West Virginia.

No. 20 Xavier 85, Dayton 77

CINCINNATI — David West's career-high 47 points and 18 rebounds helped Xavier rally from a 15-point deficit to beat Dayton.

Xavier (17-4, 8-1 Atlantic 10) let its preseason All-America pick apart Dayton's sagging man-to-man de-fense. The 6-foot-9 forward went 15-for-26 from the field and 16-for-19 on free throws en route to the sec-

ond-highest point total in school history.

The Flyers (16-4, 8-1) had their nine-game winning streak snapped as they once again failed to win on Xavier's court. Dayton has lost 18 in a row in Cincin-

No. 23 Mississippi St. 84, Arkansas 54

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Mario Austin had 19 points and 12 rebounds as Mississippi State cruised to its biggest blowout of Arkansas in more than 50 years. The Bulldogs (15-5, 5-4 Southeastern Conference), who have won five of their past six, led by at least 26 points the entire second half. Arkansas (7-12, 2-6) shot just 25 percent from the field.

Mississippi State's most lopsided victory in the series was 79-39 at home in 1952 — the first game between the schools.

tween the schools.

Ontario Harper had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Bulldogs, who led 52-18 at halftime.

Minnesota 90, No. 24 Purdue 68

MINNEAPOLIS — Rick Rickert scored 26 points and Michael Bauer added 17 to lead Minnesota past Pur-

due.

The Golden Gophers (13-7, 5-4 Big Ten), a starkly different team at home than they are on the road, beat the conference's first-place team for the second consecutive Saturday. They knocked Michigan out of the top spot last weekend with an 87-80 victory at Williams Arena, where they're 12-2 this season.

Willie Deane had 15 points and David Teague 12 for the Boilermakers (15-5, 7-2), who had a four-game winning streak snapped at the end of their first week as a ranked team since March 2000.